Data associated with the physical, biological, cultural, and administrative features of Bent Creek Experimental Forest are available in digital format and may be downloaded from this web site. These data files are supplied to facilitate research projects and provide general site information for users of national forest lands.

Nine data layers or map themes were obtained from various U.S. Forest Service sources. Each layer is stored in one of two formats depending on its type. Vector data, such as roads and soil polygons, are stored in Shape format, a proprietary product of Environmental System Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). Raster data, such as elevations, are stored in Interchange format (e.g. e00) also a proprietary format of ESRI. The data file names, brief descriptions, and their sizes in kilobytes are:

ESRI shape files:
1. bcbound.zip - Designated boundary of the 6,000-ac experimental forest located within the Pisgah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. (47 kb)
2. bc_inholdings.zip - Two large tracts of public land within the experimental forest that are not used for research purposes: (1) Lake Powhatan recreation area (administered by the Pisgah District of the U.S. Forest Service) and (2) The North Carolina Arboretum (administered by the University of North Carolina) and three small parcels of private property. (5 kb)
3. bcquads.zip - The four U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle map sheets on which the experimental forest occurs. (13 kb)
4. bcroads.zip - Road system as mapped by Pisgah National Forest. (47 kb)
5. bcstreams - Flowing water mapped by Pisgah National Forest. (37 kb)
6. bcwater - Impounded water consisting of Lake Powhatan. (3 kb)
7. bcgeology.zip - Bedrock geology consisting of 5 classification units mapped by the N.C. Geological Survey at 1:12,000 scale in 2002. (156 kb)
8. bcsoils.zip - Soils consisting of 20 classification units mapped by a contract soils scientist at 1:12,000 scale in 1991. (940 kb)

ESRI interchange (e00) files:
1. bcgrid.zip - Elevation (feet) at X-Y grid intervals of 32.8 ft x 32.8 ft that can be used to generate contour lines and produce a 3-dimensional surface on which other data layers can be overlaid. (1,418 kb)

Two files provide detailed descriptions of the mapped geologic and soil classifications.

PDF format:
1. SoilDescrip.zip - Descriptions of the 20 soil classification units and identification of the 13 mapping units. (255 kb)
2. RockDescrip.zip - Description of the five rock classification units. (22 kb)

All files have been compressed using the ZIP format to reduce downloading time and to group related individual components, such as ESRI shape files. All data layers are in N.C. State Plane projection, NAD27, with units of feet. Other digital data will be included as files become available and may include trails, vegetation, climate, and early land ownership.